

RURAL DISTRICT of BUCKINGHAM

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and of the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

and

SURVEYOR

for the Year

1956

List of Parishes in the Council's Area.

Addington	Marsh Gibbon
Adstock	Middle Claydon
Akeley	Padbury
Barton Hartshorne	Poundon
Beachampton	Preston Bissett
Biddlesden	Radclive-cum-Chackmore
Charndon	Shalstone
Chetwode	Steeple Claydon
Edgcott	Stowe
Foscott	Thornborough
Hillesden	Thornton
Leackhampstead	Tingewick
Lillingstone Dayrell	Turweston
Lillingstone Lovell	Twyford
Luffield Abbey	Water Stratford
Maids Moreton	Westbury

1956

BUCKINGHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Chairman of Council :

W. DURRANT, ESQ.

General Purposes Committee :

Chairman :

T. S. MITCHINSON, ESQ.

Members :

W. G. Beckett, Esq.

Mrs. K. D. Benfield

C. Bryant, Esq.

S. M. Cotton, Esq.

Mrs. S. M. Crook.

Col. R. H. Doyne.

Hon. Mrs. M. E. Fortescue.

W. E. Good, Esq.

Hon. Mrs. H. Heywood-Lonsdale.

A. Hodges, Esq.

P. J. Hodges, Esq.

A. Powell, Esq.

Capt. G. Robarts.

Mrs. M. M. Spiers.

D. A. Stewart, Esq.

F. Tofield, Esq.

W. F. Wood, Esq.

T. S. Mitchinson, Esq., and W. Durrant, Esq.

ex-officio members

Public Health Staff :

Medical Officer of Health :

D. H. WALDRON,

O.B.E., M.D., D.P.H., D.T.M. & H., Col. I.A.M.C. (Rtd.)

(The Medical Officer of Health is also M.O.H. for Buckingham M.B., the Urban Districts of Bletchley, Linslade, Newport Pagnell and Wolverton, the Rural Districts of Newport Pagnell and Wing, Area Medical Officer for North Bucks and Divisional School Medical Officer for the North Bucks Division and the Buckingham and Winslow District.)

Deputy Medical Officer of Health :

F. SEYMOUR, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Surveyor and Chief Public Health Inspector :

J. C. SHARPE, M.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A.

Additional Public Health Inspector and Deputy :

K. E. RICHARDSON, A.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A.

Additional Public Health Inspector :

E. H. BARNETT, A.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A.

(left 2.6.56)

Administrative Assistant :

C. H. BRAY.

BUCKINGHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL OFFICES,

SCHOOL LANE,

BUCKINGHAM.

12th July, 1957.

To The Chairman and Members of Buckingham Rural District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1956.

The Birth Rate continues at a high level and is now more than $4\frac{1}{2}$ points higher than that for the rest of the County.

The Death Rate also maintains a satisfactory low level, being 3 points lower than that for the Country as a whole. Of the total of 90 deaths, Cancer and Heart and Allied Diseases accounted for 57.

Another satisfactory note is struck in the Infantile Mortality Rate. This is only half that for the Country and at 12 per 1,000 live births compares very favourably with 19.7 in 1955 and 56.6. in 1954.

A major advance in the fight against Infectious Disease was made during the year by the introduction of Vaccination against Anterior Poliomyelitis. Unfortunately the supply of vaccine was very limited and

only a small number of the children who registered, were able to benefit. It is hoped that supplies will be stepped up during 1957 and that everybody who applies for this protection will be able to obtain it without delay.

I should like to record another year of happy co-operation with your Clerk, Mr. Floyd, your Surveyor and Public Health Inspector, Mr. Sharpe, and their staffs.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

DANIEL H. WALDRON.

SECTION A.

Vital Statistics

	1955	1956
Area (in acres)	54,543	54,543
Population	10,180	10,350
Number of Inhabited Houses ..	2,741	2,755
Rateable Value	£43,708	£80,841
Rate per £	24/6	16/10
Sum represented by a 1d. Rate	£171/13/9	£308/1/9

Births :

Legitimate—Males ..	78	84
„ Females ..	67	76
Illegitimate—Males ..	5	4
„ Females ..	2	3
Birth rate per 1,000 population	18.8	20.1
Do. (Bucks)	15.4	16.3
Do. (England & Wales)	15.0	15.7
Deaths—Males	45	62
„ Females	40	28
Death rate per 1,000 population	7.7	8.7
Do. (Bucks)	9.8	9.9
Do. (England & Wales)	11.7	11.7
Maternal Mortality Rate ..	Nil	Nil
Do. (England & Wales)	0.64	0.56

Infantile Mortality :

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age		
per 1,000 live births ..	19.7	12.
Ditto for Bucks ..	20.0	17.1
Ditto for England & Wales	24.9	23.8
Still Births	1	2

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH :	1955			1956		
	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
Influenza	0	0	0	0	0	0
Respiratory Tuberculosis ...	0	0	0	2	0	2
Other Tuberculosis	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cancer	9	7	16	12	8	20
Diabetes	0	0	0	1	0	1
Cerebral Haemorrhage ...	3	7	10	3	3	6
Heart Disease	17	13	30	21	7	28
Other Circulatory Diseases	2	2	4	3	0	3
Bronchitis	2	0	2	4	0	4
Pneumonia	0	2	2	3	1	4
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	0	1	0	0	0
Digestive Diseases	1	0	1	1	0	1
Nephritis	0	2	2	1	0	1
Pregnancy, Child Birth, Abortion	0	0	0	0	0	0
Congenital Causes	1	0	1	0	0	0
Accidents	5	1	6	4	1	5
All other Causes	4	6	10	7	8	15
TOTALS	45	40	85	62	28	90

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services

1. LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Specimens for bacteriological investigation were sent to the Public Health Laboratory, Oxford, as in previous years. Specimens for qualitative and quantitative analysis had to be sent to London.

2. AMBULANCE SERVICES.

This service, administered by the County Health Department, is now radio controlled from Aylesbury, with a sub-station in Bletchley to cover the North Bucks Area. The service deals with all types of cases, general, accident and infectious disease.

3. NURSING FACILITIES.

The District Nurses in the Buckingham Rural Area carried out their duties in their usual conscientious manner.

4. CLINICS.

(a) *Child Welfare Centres.* There are five static Welfare Centres serving the District, located as follows :

Buckingham (twice monthly)	Twyford (one monthly)
Steeple Claydon (do.)	Winslow (twice monthly)
Thornborough (once monthly)	

The work of the Mobile Welfare Unit continued during the year and the following villages were visited monthly :—

Akeley.	Charndon.	Maids Moreton.
Adstock.	Dadford.	Padbury.
Beachampton.	Leckhampstead.	Preston Bissett.
Calvert.	Lillingstone Dayrell.	Tingewick.
Chackmore.		

The District Nurse and Health Visitor attended each Session, and a Medical Officer attended once monthly. Immunization against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough was carried out at all centres. During the year attendances by children totalled 2016.

Once again I should like to pay tribute to the good work done at these Clinics by the members of the Ladies' Voluntary Committees.

(b) *Chest Clinic*.—The Clinic holds weekly sessions and is administered jointly by the Regional Hospital Board and the County Health Department. A chest physician attends each session. It is equipped with X-ray plant and is doing excellent work.

(c) *Orthopaedic Clinic*.—This clinic is organized by the Wingfield-Morris Hospital, Oxford. It holds two sessions a month at the Town Hall, Buckingham, and an Orthopaedic Surgeon attends alternate months.

5. HOSPITALS.

The following Hospitals served the area during the year :—

Buckingham Hospital.
Aylesbury Group.
Oxford Group.
Northampton Group.
Creaton Sanatorium.
Peppard Sanatorium.

6. DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE.

The service instituted under the National Health Service is administered on behalf of the County Council by the Women's Voluntary Service.

During the year 73 cases were assisted.

7. INEDUCABLE CHILDREN.

In a letter from the County Medical Officer of Health on the above subject, he states :—

“ The arrangements detailed in my letter of 12th July, 1956 for the Buckinghamshire Voluntary Association for Mental Welfare to administer a training centre for mental defectives continue.

“ The hours of the Centre were increased during the past year. The children attending the Centre have regular annual medical inspections and appropriate action is taken where any physical defect is found.”

ANNUAL REPORT OF SURVEYOR AND CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

SECTION C.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

1. WATER SUPPLY.

The Bucks Water Board, of which your Council is a constituent authority, continues to supply every Parish with water.

The Foxcote Treatment Plant has been in operation throughout the year and the average quantity of water supplied from these works during 1956 was 1,165,000 gallons per day. This was an increase of 51,000 gallons per day over the figure for 1955.

The Foxcote Storage Reservoir was virtually completed in July and the reservoir was filled during the following months. The summer of 1956 was unusually wet and in consequence the flow in the Ouse was well maintained so that no difficulty was experienced in obtaining surplus water for the filling of the reservoir. The Storage Reservoir was brought into use in the Autumn and since then it has been the practice of the Board to draw off water for treatment from the new storage reservoir.

During the year the Board laid new mains as follows :

Twyford	...	...	135 yards (Housing)
Tingewick	...	...	180 yards (Housing)
Twyford—School Lane			15 yards
Stowe—Dadford Road			56 yards
Total	...	...	<hr/>386 yards. <hr/>

Main Supply.

- (a) Quantity—Satisfactory.
- (b) Quality—Satisfactory.
- (c) Samples taken from the supply (which fell into Class I of the Ministry of Health's grading) 3
- (d) Number of dwelling houses on supply ... 2526
- (e) Estimated number of population served ... 9408

Other Sources.

- (a) Samples taken 4
- (b) Samples found upon analysis to be unfit ... 1
(in this case informal action was taken with the owner of the property concerned to provide a wholesome supply).

Summary of Results of Water Samples taken from other than Main Supply for Bacteriological Examination during the past Ten Years.

Year	No. of Samples taken and examined	Result	
		Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
1947	7	—	7
1948	19	7	12
1949	6	4	2
1950	6	3	3
1951	12	2	10
1952	4	2	2
1953	7	3	4
1954	12	4	8
1955	12	1	11
1956	4	3	1
Totals	89	29	60
		67.72% unsatisfactory.	

2. RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The streams and water courses in a number of villages are still polluted in varying degrees by drainage effluent and in dry weather a number of them consist almost entirely of sewage and whilst every effort with

the available resources is made to keep them cleaned out, the pollution increases from year to year.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Schemes will obviate much of the pollution in the receiving streams but early abatement of the nuisances appears to be unlikely because of economic difficulties and Government restrictions on capital expenditure.

3. SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The Marsh Gibbon Scheme was completed during the early part of 1956 and continued to function satisfactorily throughout the remainder of the year.

The extension of the Tingewick Sewage Disposal Works was also completed during the early part of the year. The works functioned satisfactorily throughout the year and a good effluent was maintained.

As far as the Akeley, Adstock and Padbury Schemes are concerned, the Ministry of Housing and Local Government advised the Council that only schemes of vital importance could be approved for execution in the present national economic situation. The Council, later in the year, made further representation and pointed out that delay in the execution of these schemes would inevitably lead to sewerage and sewage disposal schemes for other parishes being further delayed. It is hoped that sanction will be forthcoming and that tenders can be invited early in the new year.

The Steeple Claydon, Chackmore and Thornborough Works continued to function satisfactorily during the year and maintenance on the sewers and disposal works sites has again been carried out in a satisfactory manner.

With the completion of the Marsh Gibbon Scheme and the Tingewick Extension, an additional man was engaged for employment on maintenance.

4. WATER CLOSETS.

Six conversions to the water carriage system have been carried out by the Council during the year. Private individuals have done work of this nature to various properties.

5. PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The monthly kerbside collection of household refuse was continued during the first few months of the year. At the commencement of the financial year the Council took delivery of a new Dennis Paxit II, 18 cubic yard capacity, rear loading vehicle. With this new vehicle it was possible to implement a kerbside collection of household refuse throughout the district at three weekly intervals.

The revised schedule of collection was put into operation from 1st May 1956.

SCHEDULE

Week 1

Tuesday— Padbury, Adstock.

Wednesday—Thornborough, Thornton, Beachampton.

Thursday— Maids Moreton, Foscothe, Leckhampstead.

Friday— Lillingstone Lovell, Lillingstone Dayrell, Addington, Middle Claydon.

Week 2

Tuesday— Steeple Claydon.

Wednesday—Edgcott, Marsh Gibbon.

Thursday— Poundon, Tywford, Charndon.

Friday— Hillesden, Preston Bissett, Chetwode, Barton Hartshorne.

Week 3

Tuesday— Tingewick.

Wednesday—Radclive-cum-Chackmore, Shalstone, Biddlesden, Water Stratford.

Thursday— Turweston, Westbury.

Friday— Akeley, Stowe.

The new vehicle has given very satisfactory service and with the village to tip journeys considerably reduced and the change over from petrol to diesel fuel,

it is anticipated that a saving on running costs will be made.

The Council decided to retain the existing Karrier vehicle for occasional use on refuse collection and for general sewerage and estate maintenance work.

A disused claypit at the Calvert Works of the London Brick Company continues to be used as a tip for all refuse. Every effort was made during the year to keep the tip in a presentable condition but this proved difficult with the small labour force available. Regular inspection and treatment for rodents was given and during the summer months frequent spraying with insecticides was carried out to prevent fly nuisance.

Tipping difficulties were experienced with the new vehicle, all loads being much heavier and despite various experiments in the making of sleeper roads to the tip edge, the unloading of the vehicle had been found to be a dangerous procedure owing to the loose nature of the tip face. In order to safeguard the men engaged on refuse collection and the vehicle and prevent loss of time on collection, the Council decided to hire a mechanical aid to push the deposited refuse back over the tip edge, the refuse vehicle depositing its load at the top of the tip on reasonably consolidated ground. The use of a bulldozer at frequent intervals for this purpose has proved very satisfactory.

The cleansing of cesspools and septic tanks continues to be carried out by contract at four monthly intervals and has been executed in a satisfactory manner.

The total income for the year from the sale of waste paper, scrap iron and other salvaged materials was £107 13s. 8d., which was a slight increase over the figure for 1955. The price of waste paper has decreased during the year and it is uneconomic to make special collections for this purpose.

6. SCHOOLS.

There are 16 village schools in the district and of these 5 are without modern sanitation and are still in possession of the old lavatory bucket system. These schools are situate in the following villages :—

Adstock, Akeley, Hillesden, Marsh Gibbon and Padbury.

Plans have been passed by the Council for the modernisation of the sanitary accommodation at Marsh Gibbon School but there is little likelihood of the remaining 4 schools being provided with modern sanitation until main sewerage schemes are installed in the respective villages.

7. SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are no public swimming baths in the Rural District but an adjacent Public School gives facilities for the use of their private pool to rural residents during the out of term time. This pool is part of an existing lake, sited within the School grounds.

The Borough of Buckingham recently opened a swimming pool and this is used by rural residents.

8. ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

One infestation was reported during the year.

9. RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION.

Work during the year by the Rodent Operative has again been satisfactory and was carried out without the necessity of invoking statutory actions.

Work of Inspection and Control.

(a) Number of Complaints received	...	...	75
(b) Number of Properties inspected and visits carried out	...	...	2492
(c) Number of Properties found infested with rats	...	...	178
(d) Number of Properties found infested with mice	...	...	32

10. GENERAL SURVEY OF INSPECTIONS AND VISITS DURING THE YEAR.

The general work of the department, including day to day inspections, has been well maintained. The accent during the year has been on the maintaining of 100% meat inspection service, the inspection of food premises under the new Food Hygiene Regulations, the inspection of properties scheduled in the Slum Clearance Programme, together with the preparation of drawings, schedules, reports and costing of repairs, building byelaws inspections, including drain testing and housing work in relation to Improvement Grants.

The Second Additional Public Health Inspector left the employment of the Council at the end of May and by the end of the year the vacancy had not been filled. This placed a burden on the remainder of the staff.

New legislation regarding Food and Drugs came into force during the latter part of 1955, chiefly in respect of the hygienic handling of food and the construction and maintenance of premises: during the year all premises that came within the purview were inspected.

A brief summary of other inspections and visits made during 1956 is appended below :—

Total Number of Premises visited	...	...	2596
Complaints received	...	...	26
Informal Notices served	...	...	152
Statutory Notices served	...	...	Nil

FACTORIES ACTS 1937—1948.

The table below shews the position during 1956, as far as work places and factories are concerned and the inspections made for purposes as to health and sanitation :—

<i>Premises</i>	<i>Number on Register</i>	<i>Number of Inspections Written Notices</i>		<i>Occupier prosecuted</i>
1. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authorities.	1	1	Nil	Nil
2. Factories not included in 1 in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	17	29	Nil	Nil
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises).	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total ...	18	30	—	—

Only one outworker was notified in accordance with Section 110 of Part VIII of the 1937 Act and after inspection this person was found to be engaged in the making of wearing apparel.

During the year certificates for the provision of adequate means of escape in case of fire were issued respecting the following Factories :—

London Brick Co. Works—Charndon.

Elm Engineering Factory—Westbury.

TENTS, VANS AND MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

All the sites were inspected during the year and found to be maintained in a satisfactory condition :—

Number licensed ...	...	...	...	3
Number of inspections ...	...	...	...	10
Nuisances found to exist	...	...	...	1

DRAINAGE.

A considerable amount of repairs and renewals to house drainage as well as drainage to new premises was supervised by the staff. I am of the opinion that good progress has been made during the last few years towards good drainage to house property. Owners in villages where main sewerage has been provided have come forward very readily to connect their properties to the sewer. The Council's policy in providing a lateral drain free of charge providing the premises are connected thereto within 12 months of the completion of the scheme, is a good one, besides giving an incentive to the owner it ensures that all road re-instatement is carried out at the same time.

Number of New drains examined	...	...	87
Number of visits for that purpose	...	...	193
Number of W.C.'s installed	...	...	79
Number of new soil and ventilating pipes installed			58

PETROLEUM (REGULATIONS) ACTS 1928—1936.

It is obvious that the time is fast approaching when a certain amount of re-testing of petroleum tanks will have to be carried out, as quite a number of tanks in existence are over twenty years old. Installations over this age are liable to rapid deterioration and it is the accepted practice to carry out periodical pressure tests and inspections to such installations.

Number of Petroleum Licences, December 1956 :

500 gallons or less	...	...	...	...	26
Over 500 gallons but not more than 1,000 gallons	...	...	...	...	9
Over 1,000 gallons	...	...	...	...	3
Total licences issued	...	...	...	...	38
<hr/>					
One licence to store 110 lb. of Carbide of Calcium was issued during the year.					
Number of inspections or tests carried out	...				12
One licence to store 50 gallons cellulose solution was issued during the year.					

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Enquiries in cases of infectious disease	...	8
Number of visits re disinfection	...	1

HOUSING AND BUILDING BYELAWS.

Number of Plans deposited for new houses	...	13
Number of Plans deposited for other works	...	108
Visits in connection with Building Byelaws	...	520

OTHER CLASSIFIED VISITS.

Housing visits in connection with conversion and improvement	...	...	...	...	159
Housing visits under the Housing Acts	...				184
Housing visits under the Public Health Acts					41
Visits re water supply	...	...	...	...	38
Visits re drainage and sewerage	...	...			311
Visits re refuse collection	...	...	...		35
Visits re refuse disposal	...	...	...	...	82
Visits in connection with sewage disposal	...				181
Schools	...	...	...	...	45
General nuisances	...	...	...	...	18
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	1
Accumulation of refuse	...	...	...	...	Nil
Foul ditches and ponds	...	...	...		18
Visits to shops	...	...	...	...	258
Unclassified	...	...	...	...	54
Stables and Piggeries	...	...	...	...	8

SECTION D.

Housing

The total number of Council houses erected post war is now 364. The rate of progress during the year decreased over that of the previous year. The figures for the two years being 17 and 28 respectively. By the end of the year 10 houses were under construction as compared with 25 the previous year.

Erection of Post War Council Houses up to December 1956

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Houses</i>	<i>Bungalows</i>	<i>Total Completed</i>	<i>Under Construction</i>
Adstock	12	—	12	2
Akeley	16	—	16	—
Beachampton	10	—	10	—
Biddlesden	4	—	4	—
Charndon	6	—	6	—
Chetwode	4	—	4	—
Edgcott	8	—	8	—
Hillesden	6	—	6	—
Lillingstone Lovell	4	—	4	—
Maids Moreton	15	—	15	—
Marsh Gibbon	24	—	24	—
Middle Claydon	4	—	4	—
Padbury	30	—	30	—
Poundon	3	—	3	—
Preston Bissett	12	—	12	—
Radcliffe-cum-Chackmore	4	—	4	—
Steeple Claydon	52	39	91	—
Thornborough	18	—	18	—
Thornton	4	—	4	—
Tingewick	35	13	48	8
Turweston	6	—	6	—
Twyford	18	—	18	—
Westbury	17	—	17	—
Total	312	52	364	10

Total number of houses erected and occupied during the year 1956	17
Total number of houses built and owned by the Authority	659

Erection of Post War Houses by Private Enterprise up to December 1956

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Houses</i>	<i>Bungalows</i>	<i>Total Completed</i>	<i>UnderCon- struction</i>
Akeley	1	3	4	—
Adstock	2	1	3	—
Beachampton	4	—	4	—
Biddlesden	5	—	5	—
Charndon	2	10	12	—
Edgcott	—	—	—	1
Hillesden	2	—	2	—
Leckhampstead	1	—	1	—
Lillingstone Lovell	—	1	1	—
Maids Moreton	5	—	5	1
Marsh Gibbon	4	4	8	1
Padbury	6	—	6	—
Radclive-cum-Chackmore	3	—	3	—
Steeple Claydon	2	4	6	1
Stowe	16	—	16	2
Thornborough	3	3	6	—
Thornton	—	1	1	—
Tingewick	1	3	4	—
Turweston	2	1	3	—
Twyford	—	—	—	1
Water Stratford	1	1	2	—
Westbury	6	1	7	1
Total	66	33	99	8

Total number of houses erected and occupied
during the year 1956 12

Substantial progress has been made regarding inspection of properties listed for action in the Council's Slum Clearance Programme.

The Council decided to confine their house building activities to the erection of houses mainly for persons living in dwellings listed in their Slum Clearance Programme. Reasons for this being mainly economic

ones, this resulted in statutory action being taken with regard to a number of premises and a summary of the action taken is shewn in the following table. It is hoped that the progress that has been made in this field during the year will be maintained and that all properties listed in the 5 years programme will be dealt with prior to that date.

SLUM CLEARANCE — Five Year Programme

SUMMARY OF ACTION TAKEN FROM OCTOBER 1955 TO 31ST DECEMBER 1956

Parish	Number of Unfit Houses in Slum Clearance Programme.	Action Taken							Action to be Taken — Remaining
		Clearance Area Made— Number of Premises	Demolition Order Made	Closing Order Made	Undertaking not to re-let for human habitation	Demolished	Deleted from Programme	Represented and under consideration	
Adstock ...	8		8			I			Nil
Barton Hartshorne	I		I						Nil
Charndon ...	6								6
Hillesden ...	4								4
Maids Moreton ...	II							3	8
Marsh Gibbon ...	6								6
Padbury ...	8				2				6
Preston Bissett ...	I4					I			I4
Steeple Claydon ...	I				I				Nil
Thornborough ...	9		2			2	3		3
Tingewick ...	8			I					4
Turweston ...	3								3
Twyford ...	I2	7	5			I			Nil
Water Stratford ...	5								5
TOTALS ...	96	7	I6	I	4	4	3	6	59

Other Dwellings Not included in Programme but dealt with during Year.

Marsh Gibbon ... 1

**Houses included in Clearance Orders confirmed by the
Minister Pre-War but not yet demolished.**

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Number of Houses</i>	<i>Number still occupied</i>
Akeley ...	6	2
Beachampton	3	—
Stowe ...	7	7
Tingewick ...	2	2

Five of the houses included in the above table are licensed for temporary occupation under the Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954. The current licences expire on 30th August 1957 and after that date action will have to be taken to demolish the properties in accordance with the Clearance Orders confirmed by the Minister. This not only applies to the houses under licence but also to the rest of the houses included in the above table.

INSPECTION AND ACTION DURING THE YEAR.

Number of Houses found to be in a state unfit for habitation	32
Number of Houses in respect of which an under-taking was signed to render the premises fit for habitation	Nil
Number of houses in respect of which an under-taking was signed that the premises owned would not be re-let for habitation	2
Number of houses found to be unfit and upon which a Demolition order was made	16
Number of houses found to be unfit and upon which a Closing Order was made	2
Number of houses found to be unfit and upon which action was deferred	5
Number of houses found to be unfit and upon which a Clearance Order was made	7

OVERCROWDING.

One case of overcrowding was investigated during the year.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

Twenty-two applications for grant were made, of which 19 received approval, and the maximum grant of 50% was recommended in each case.

The total grant aid approved during the year amounted to £7,971 0. 0. an average of approximately £306 10. 0. per house.

Applications made for Grant during 1956

Parish	Number of Houses to be improved		
	Approved by Council	To be considered	Withdrawn
Adstock	2		
Akeley	1		
Biddlesden	2		
Chetwode	5		
Hillesden	1		
Marsh Gibbon	2		2
Padbury	1		
Preston Bissett	2		
Shalstone	2		
Steeple Claydon	—	6	
Tingewick	1		
Twyford	4		
Westbury	3		
Total	26	6	2

Number of properties in respect of which grants were approved by the Council during 1956 ...	26
Amount of grant aid approved by the Council during 1956	£7,971 0. 0.
Total number of properties in respect of which grants were approved by the Council to 31st December, 1956	70
Total amount of grant aid approved by the Council to 31st December, 1956	£18,529 18. 3d.

HOUSING GENERAL

FINMERE CAMP.—It is pleasing to note that the remaining occupants of Finmere Camp were re-housed during the year and the remaining huts demolished and the site de-requisitioned.

SECTION E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food

MILK.

The sampling of milk which is undertaken by the Food and Drugs Authority, brought to light the existence of brucella abortus on five farms and the existence of tuberculosis in two dairy herds. As far as brucella abortus is concerned, the milk from the infected farms was diverted for pasteurisation and the veterinary service called in for further investigations. The herds affected with tuberculosis were also investigated and as a result of further veterinary inspections sampling and the slaughter of animals, the herds were subsequently pronounced clear.

Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949

Number of Dairies registered	...	...	...	1
Number of Distributors on Register	...	...	...	8
Inspections	...	...	...	12

The following supplementary licences were issued during the year under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations 1949 authorising the use of the Special Designation :—

" Tuberculin Tested "	...	...	...	...	10
" Pasteurised "	...	...	...	...	8

ICE CREAM

Total number of retailers on register	...	...	28
New applications received and licences granted	...	...	2
Inspections	...	...	34

Samples of ice cream have been taken from premises serving ice cream to the public. These samples were sent to the Public Health Laboratory, Oxford, for bacteriological examination by the methylene blue reduction test and were graded as follows :—

Provision Grade I	...	...	...	5
Do. II	...	...	...	1
Do. III	...	...	...	Nil
Do. IV	...	...	...	Nil

This test affords a simple means for the grading of the bacteriological cleanliness of ice cream.

MEAT AND SLAUGHTERHOUSES

Depite a shortage in the establishment of the Department, I am pleased again to report that during the year 100% meat inspection was carried out. Of the 5 premises licensed as private slaughterhouses, only 3 have been in regular use during the year but even so the inspection of meat has taken up much time and travelling, quite often special journeys having to be made for this purpose.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in
whole or part :

	<i>Cattle excluding Cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>	<i>Horses</i>
Number killed ...	114	7	3	863	207	—
Number inspected	114	7	3	863	207	—
<i>All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci.</i> Whole carcases condemned ...	—	—	—	10	1	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	42	3	—	29	10	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with dis- ease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ...	36.84	42.86	—	4.52	5.31	—
<i>Tuberculosis only.</i> Whole carcases condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	6	1	—	—	8	—
Percentage of the inspected affected with tuberculosis	5.26	14.29	—	—	3.87	—
<i>Cysticercosis</i> Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and tot- ally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

Parts or Organs condemned are classified as follows :

	<i>Beef</i>	<i>Pork</i>	<i>Mutton</i>	<i>Total</i>
Whole Carcase	—	1	10	11
Plucks	1	2	12	15
Livers	42	5	20	67
Heads and Tongues ...	8	8	—	16
Hearts	—	—	—	—
Lungs	6	3	2	11
Part carcase	2	—	3	5
Miscellaneous	2	1	—	3

Approximate total weight 11 cwts.

Visits to slaughterhouses	248
Visits to Butchers' shops	192
Number of licensed slaughtermen	17

FOOD PREMISES

Since the Food Hygiene Regulations 1955-56 came into force, all premises have been inspected for the purpose of ascertaining whether the premises complied with the Regulations. The premises were inspected with a view to bringing them up to the standard as laid down in the Regulations and 82 informal notices were served on the Owners or Occupiers, requesting compliance. Up to the end of the year 53 of these notices had been complied with and other work was in hand.

The premises coming within the purview of the Regulations are summarised as follows :—

School Canteens	16
Private School Kitchens	5
Factory Canteens	3
Hospital Kitchens	2
Licensed Clubs	4
Licensed Public Houses	41
Mobile Fish and Chip Vans	2
Shops—General Stores	38
Butchers	7
Bakers	3
Total	121

Food premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act 1955 are classified as follows :—

Ice Cream (registered for the storage and sale) ...	28
Mobile Vans (for frying of fish and chips) ...	2
Manufacture of Sausages	7

KNACKERS YARDS

Consideration was given by the Council to an application for a licence to use premises as a knackers yard. The application was approved and a licence was issued for 12 months.

OTHER FOODS.

No case of *cysticercus bovis* occurred in animals sent from this district for slaughtering, was reported.

Foods condemned during the year include the following :—

Frozen beef	70 lb.
Pineapple chunks in syrup in 15 oz. tins ...	18
Chicken carcase	1

DISPOSAL OF CONDEMNED FOOD

All butchers' meat condemned is stained with naphthalene green dye before being disposed of either by way of the knackers merchant or by means of burial.

Tinned food is disposed of by burial.

FOOD POISONING

No cases of food poisoning were notified during the year.

BAKEHOUSES

Number on register	3
Number of visits	10
Contravention of Regulations	2

During the year one of the village bakehouses closed down, which now leaves only 3 on the Register and of these possibly a further one will close within the next few months.

The general tendency over the last few years is for the small village bakehouses to be discontinued in the face of labour difficulties and competition by the multiple firms.

JOHN C. SHARPE,
Surveyor and Chief Public Health Inspector.

SECTION F.

Prevalence of, and Control Over, Infectious and Other Diseases

GENERAL

This was a very good year regarding Infectious Diseases. Only 24 cases were notified as against 169 in 1955.

NOTIFICATIONS

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Measles	5	9	14
Scarlet Fever ...	1	—	1
Whooping Cough	2	3	5
Pneumonia	1	2	3
Dysentery	—	1	1
Total	9	15	24

CANCER

There were 20 deaths from this disease during the year.

TUBERCULOSIS

Four cases were notified during the year. There were two deaths.

DANIEL H. WALDRON,
Medical Officer of Health.